

(b) since when they are lying sick; and

(c) what measures are being taken to repair these wells and start production?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR): (a) There are two sick wells in Bombay High.

So far as on-shore area is concerned there are 551 sick wells, out of which 353 are located in the Western Region (Gujarat) and 198 in the Eastern Region (Assam).

(b) Of the two sick wells in Bombay High one has been having production problems since November, 1980, and the other since May, 1981.

Of the 95 sick wells of OIL 14 have been sick for less than one year; 15 between one to three years and 66 over 3 years. Details about period of sickness of ONGC onshore wells both in the Western and the Eastern region is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) The following steps are being taken to repair and restore the low productivity wells:

(i) increasing the number of workover rigs and addition of modern equipment;

(ii) operating all the workover rigs round the clock;

(iii) stimulation of the wells; and

(iv) contracts for workover services.

Bids for Oil Exploration

824. **SHRI NAVIN RAVANI:** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have worked out the details for inviting bids for the second time from oil companies for exploration and exploitation of oil

in off-shore and on-shore areas in the Indian continental shelf;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of companies offered and the terms and conditions; and

(d) the number of companies which responded for the first tender, the names of the companies whose tender was accepted and from which places and on what terms and conditions?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR): (a) Not yet, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

(d) Seven oil companies either individually or jointly responded to the first invitation for bids. The offer of Chevron—an Oil Company of USA was accepted for Saurashtra off-shore Block-II. The main terms and conditions of the Contract signed with this Company, have already been intimated to Hon'ble members of the House in reply to Unstarred Question No. 6019 answered on 30th March, 1982.

Load Shedding and Defective Electricity Consumption Billing in Delhi

825. **SHRI DIGAMBAR SINGH:** Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking is in shambles being headless;

(b) whether there had been lately erratic heavy load-shedding without any prior notice causing considerable inconvenience to the public in the sweltering weather;

(c) whether the preparation of electricity consumption bills is also in arrears and bills for a number of months are prepared and consumers put to hardship for paying them in instalment;

(d) whether the billing is also done in a very careless manner, there being no check exercised at any level;

(e) whether the meters also malfunction and no test or replacement is made even after payment of the prescribed fee; and

(f) whether Government propose to set up a high-power committee of experts to investigate into the bunglings of the DESU, particularly its massive power cut during this summer and streamline its billing and public dealing machinery

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN): (a) No, Sir. Commissioner, M.C.D. is looking after the duties of General Manager, DESU, exercising the powers of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi under Section 490 (2)(b) of the Delhi Municipal Corporation Act, 1957.

(b) The load shedding had to be resorted to due to transmission and distribution bottlenecks as a result of failure of 2 Nos. 100 MVA transformers at Rohtak Road Grid Station under the control of BBMB.

(c) The electricity consumption bills for the consumers served through Shakti Nagar, Civil Lines, Shanker Road and Moti Nagar Districts were in arrears for longer periods in recent past and DESU had to get 4-month billing instead of usual bi-monthly bills with the option to the consumers to make the payment in installments on their request. The billing of Shanker Road and Moti Nagar Districts has now been reverted back to bi-monthly billing.

(d) The bills are prepared on the computer after exercising normal checks of the errors picked up by the computer and quality controls are also required to be exercised by the computer agencies before delivery of outputs to DESU to check up their accuracies. Efforts are also made to further check these bills before these are issued to the consumers.

(e) The metres found malfunctioning are tested/replaced after payment of prescribed fee by the consumers. During the period from 1-4-1981 to

30-5-1982, about 10,000 single phase meters and 176 poly-phase metres have been tested against payment of prescribed fee.

(f) A high-level Task force has been set up to examine in depth the causes of break-downs of power supply in Delhi including Grid disturbances and suggest remedial measures. As stated against (b) above, load shedding had to be resorted to not because of low generation but due to Transmission and Distribution bottlenecks as a result of failure of 2 Nos. 100 MVA transformers at the Rohtak Road Grid Station under the Control of BBMB.

Oil Reserve in South Bengal

826. SHRI NIREN GHOSH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Russian as well as U.S. oil experts came to the same conclusion that South Bengal including the city of Calcutta has a big oil reserve;

(b) the year in which they came to this conclusion; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by Government since getting the expert opinion with details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR): (a) No, Sir. American Oil Companies were not satisfied with the results of their drilling operations. However, Russian experts, assessing the data jointly with ONGC experts, came to the conclusion that the hydrocarbon potential of the area is substantial.

(b) The American Oil Companies assessed the basin in 1960-61 and later in 1976. The Russian experts assessed the basin jointly with ONGC experts in 1976.

(c) The ONGC have reviewed and reinterpreted all geological, geophysical and well data collected by the Indo Stanvac Petroleum Project and initiated further seismic work. On the basis of these surveys 7 wells have so far